

Attachment 4: Proposed Changes to color criterion for the Maryland Water Quality Standards

General (Chapter 01.01 B) Definition of Terms: Add definition of color.

“Color” means water color as measured by visual comparison of pH calibrated test standards of the Platinum-Cobalt scale as defined in ASTM Test Method D1209-00 “Standard Method for Color of Clear Liquids (Platinum Cobalt Scale)”.

Option 1: Adoption of 75 units (P/C scale) as a “default” criterion for all Designated Uses

A. Proposed Change to Maryland Water Quality Standard (COMAR Title 26.08.02.03.):

1. Insert color standard as (6) in COMAR 26.08.02., Section 03-3 Water Quality Criteria Specific to Designated Uses.
2. Move (6) Toxic Substance Criteria to (7) in Section 03-3

B. Proposed language:

1. 03-3 Water Quality Criteria Specific for Designated Uses.

A. Criteria for Use I Waters – Water Contact Recreation and Protection of Aquatic Life.

(6) Color.

(a) Color may not exceed levels detrimental to aquatic life; and

(b) Color in the surface water resulting from any discharge may not exceed 75 units at any time. Units shall be measured as units of the Platinum – Cobalt Scale.

2. A generic statement shall be included in all remaining use designation classifications Use II, III, and IV, to include P designation. Language is as follows:

Color – same as Use I waters.

Option 2: Adoption of 75 units (P/C scale) for P Designated Use Waters only.

1. Insert color standard as (6) in COMAR 26.08.02., Section 03-3 Water Quality Criteria Specific to Designated Uses.

C. Proposed language:

1. 03-3 Water Quality Criteria Specific for Designated Uses.

B. Criteria for Use I-P Waters – Water Contact Recreation and Protection of Aquatic Life and Public Water Supply

(7) Color.

(c) Color may not exceed levels detrimental to aquatic life; and

(d) Color in the surface water resulting from any discharge may not exceed 75 units at any time. Units shall be measured as units of the Platinum – Cobalt Scale.

2. A generic statement shall be included in all remaining use designation classifications Use III-P, and IV-P designations. Language is as follows:

Color – same as Use I-P waters.

Option 3: Adoption of 75 units (P/C scale) as a guidance number for all Designated Uses, but establish as a criterion for P Designated Use Waters only.

Option 4: Establish a different number for water color criterion based on an independent derivation using all available pertinent data.